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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 22 APRIL 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In my capacity as the Chairman of the Contact Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosova, I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement on the situation in Kosova, adopted at the meeting of the Contact Group today.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hadi NEJAD HOSSEINIAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Chairman of the OIC Contact Group
on Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosova

* Reissued for technical reasons.

Annex

Statement issued on 22 April 1999 by the Contact Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosova

Recalling the Declaration of the Ministerial Meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosova adopted on 7 April 1999 in Geneva (S/1999/394, annex), the OIC Contact Group expresses support for the proposals of the Secretary-General of 9 April 1999, as contained in S/1999/402, concerning the deeply distressing tragedy in Kosova and in which the Secretary-General called upon the Yugoslav authorities to undertake five commitments to allow for a lasting political solution to be found for the crisis in Kosova through diplomacy.

The OIC Contact Group welcomes the fact that, in the informal consultations of the Security Council on 19 April 1999, the Secretary-General reiterated the commitments he had sought from the Yugoslav authorities and tried "to promote consensus in the Security Council" with a view to enabling the United Nations to fulfil its obligation under the Charter and finding "a diplomatic solution aimed at ensuring lasting peace and stability in the region".

In this context, the OIC Contact Group lends full support to the Secretary-General for his initiatives and diplomatic efforts in search of a just and durable political solution which would ensure, inter alia, an end to the Yugoslav policy of ethnic cleansing and the swift, safe and unimpeded return of all Kosovar refugees and internally displaced persons under international protection throughout Kosova.